

3 KEVIN PHILLIPS: Thank you very much.
4 Particularly, I'd like to thank the Department of Energy
5 for, again, coming to the city of Caliente to hold a
6 hearing wherein our people can come and learn and
7 understand and offer comments on this project.

8 I'm very grateful, also, that you kind of
9 accommodated me a little bit early. I have another
10 commitment in Alamo here in an hour, so I'll shortly be
11 on the road.

12 I'm Kevin Phillips. I'm serving in my 15th
13 year as the mayor of Caliente, Nevada. [Many citizens of
14 Nevada and the nation understand that nuclear energy is
15 an essential component of our nation's national
16 portfolio for energy, and it's necessary to provide for
17 our baseload energy requirements while minimizing
18 harmful emissions.

19 Many Nevadans also believe that Nevada can and
20 should play a major role in our energy independence in
21 achieving this task. Nevada's leadership would like the
22 Congress and the Department of Energy to believe that
23 all Nevadans adamantly oppose the development of
24 Yucca Mountain, of the Yucca Mountain repository.

25 This is not true. I personally know that most

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1 Nevadans are truly ill-informed as to the facts of this
2 subject and simply respond negatively to polls asking if
3 they are in favor of a dump. Who wouldn't respond this

4 way when the question is framed in this manner and in
5 the context of quite a lack of knowledge and
6 understanding regarding the matter?

7 There is a significant cross-section of the
8 citizens of Nevada who want to help solve the national
9 energy crisis and lead Nevada to become one of the most
10 technologically and scientifically advanced regions of
11 the world.

12 These Nevadans are pragmatic solution-oriented
13 leaders who first and foremost want to ensure that the
14 Yucca Mountain project is constructed in accordance with
15 sound science and operated in a way that safety is
16 always the number one consideration.

17 We agree with the President and with Congress
18 that the science conducted at Yucca Mountain confirms it
19 to be a suitable site for a geologic repository.
20 Furthermore, we recognize that the same amount of used
21 nuclear fuel and high-level waste that's to be shipped
22 to Yucca Mountain has already been shipped worldwide
23 both in the United States and internationally without a
24 single radioactive release that has resulted in harm to
25 the environment or any individual.

1 In fact, immediately upon the commencement of
2 used fuel shipments along the county rail line, my
3 citizens will experience an increased amount of risk
4 from hazardous material shipments.

5 As a railroad town with very little emergency

6 response resources, the citizens of Caliente are at risk
7 every day with chlorine cars and other volatile
8 hazardous substances.

9 The increased emergency response capability
10 that will accompany the shipment to Yucca Mountain will
11 greatly enhance the everyday safety of my citizens from
12 a risk management perspective.

13 Congress and the DOE have a tremendous
14 opportunity to make Yucca Mountain one of the most
15 important and successful public works projects in the
16 history of human existence. Washington has been given
17 all the information it needs to make smart decisions and
18 accomplish this goal.

19 Our government needs to create an opportunity
20 for real meaningful economic diversification, and it
21 needs to start doing real things now rather than later.
22 This project is far from being broke.

23 If the Congress and the DOE -- I should say
24 that scientifically, not financially perhaps. If
25 Congress and the DOE are truly committed to the ultimate

1 energy independence and energy security, this can be
2 achieved.]

3 [I respectfully suggest a few things. Why
4 don't we change the name of the site of Yucca Mountain
5 to the National Energy Reserve at Yucca Mountain? This
6 modification highlights the value of what we truly are

7 dealing with. This name change coupled with the
8 following additional suggestions changes the way this
9 project is viewed by the citizens of Nevada.

10 Build a railroad from the city of Caliente to
11 the National Energy Reserve at Yucca Mountain. The
12 Record of Decision issued by the DOE refers to this
13 route as the Caliente Corridor. After this final EIS
14 has been completed, the DOE needs to issue the Record of
15 Decision on a specific alignment within the corridor,
16 and the Congress then needs to provide the funding to
17 commence construction of the railroad.

18 Ship used fuel to the National Energy Reserve.
19 Here the fuel can further cool in a remote, protected
20 environment. Litigation pressures are relieved and
21 enhanced safety is achieved. The fuel is collected in
22 several locations awaiting reuse.

23 Change the name of the Caliente Corridor to
24 the Central Nevada Energy Corridor. Numerous sites
25 along this new rail line are prime locations for

1 placement of new electrical generation power plants of
2 various types.

3 These energy zones could be prelicensed and
4 would provide great incentive for companies to build new
5 electrical generation resources, including nuclear,
6 clean coal, solar, wind, and geothermal. Designate the
7 National Energy Reserve as the location for the nation's
8 used fuel recycling facilities.

9 Build such facilities as soon as time and
10 technology permits. Do this in conjunction with
11 Nevada's university system. The Nuclear Waste Policy
12 Act gives Nevada preference for such things.

13 It makes total sense. Move the fuel once.
14 Recycle it. Place the small amount of waste left over
15 deep underground in the repository. Move the new fuel
16 assemblies to a nearby generation facility on the
17 Central Nevada Energy Corridor and produce electricity.]

18 I respectfully offer the following suggestions
19 and comments relative to the Yucca Mountain Supplemental
20 EIS and the Rail EIS. [Transportation of used fuel is 3
21 not new to the United States. Over the past 30 years,
22 more than 2,700 shipments of fuel have been completed
23 safely by both government and industry.

24 There is even more experience worldwide over
25 the last 25 years. More than 70,000 metric tons of

1 uranium has been shipped in about 20,000 casks.
2 Building a railroad is over a billion dollar project and
3 represents an opportunity to diversify Nevada's economy.
4 Shared use of this railroad is important to Nevada.]

5 [I support selection of the Caliente Corridor. 4
6 Construction should begin as soon as possible.] [As the 5
7 shipments will go through or near Caliente, we should
8 have the best in class of emergency response training
9 and equipment] and [facilities, such as the transportation 6

10 operation center, rail maintenance center, cask
11 maintenance facilities, and others that would be
12 appropriate.]

13 [The Department should choose the old Caliente 7
14 to Pioche railroad route and not the Eccles option. The
15 Eccles option would put the railroad right through the
16 middle of the acreage designated by Lincoln County as
17 much needed community expansion area. The old railroad
18 route does no such thing and would be less costly to
19 construct.]

20 [The plans indicate that the DOE will build a 8
21 rail yard proximate to Caliente in one of two identified
22 locations. I recommend in choosing the Indian Cove
23 option rather than the Upland option. The Upland yard
24 will displace an active farm and several dwellings.

25 The Cove Yard does no such thing. Cove Yard

1 will be more functional for the operations as it is next
2 to the main line. Switching train crews, fueling
3 locomotives, and stockpiling construction materials
4 would be greatly simplified and more economical.

5 The Cove Yard location is no wetland unless
6 the water is physically turned out of the Meadow Valley
7 Wash and diverted to that location. Otherwise, the
8 location dries up.]

9 [The construction of this railroad anywhere and 9
10 its inherent acquisition of rights-of-way will obviously
11 displace some individuals, modify certain agricultural

12 operations, and disrupt typical practices. These
13 individuals and property owners must be fairly and
14 adequately compensated for this.

15 What will the process be that guarantees fair
16 and adequate compensation? Perhaps an independent body
17 with authority should be established for appeal and
18 review in the event a property owner is aggrieved and is
19 not fairly compensated.]

20 Again, I wish to thank the Department for
21 coming here. The city has hosted many such hearings.
22 I'm grateful you will consider our suggestions. Thank
23 you. I have with me -- I have several people that have
24 asked me who could not come tonight to deliver their
25 testimonies that are written in here and enumerated and

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1 addressed at the front registration desk.